

REMARKS

Initially, it will be noted that the present application should be entered after final, and without an RCE, inasmuch as the present amendment places the claims in immediate condition for allowance and without raising any new issues for consideration.

In the Final Office Action, mailed December 18, 2006, claims 1–32 were considered. Of those claims, claims 6, 9–13, and 32 were allowed, claims 19 and 22–26 were objected to, but otherwise found allowable, and claims 1–5, 7, 8, 14–18, 20, 21 and 27–31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reynolds, U.S. Patent No. 5,627,964 (filed Dec. 13, 1994) (hereinafter Reynolds).¹

By this response, claims 6, 9, 13, 19, 22, and 26 are amended and claims 1–5, 7, 8, 14–18, 20, 21, and 27–31 are cancelled, such that claims 6, 9–13, 19, 22–26, and 32 are the only remaining claims pending in this application.

Notably, all of the now pending claims (6, 9–13, 19, 22–26, and 32), have been found allowable over the prior art of record, pending correction of informal objections or being rewritten in independent form. All such corrections and amendments required to place the claims in immediate condition for allowance, as suggested by the Examiner, have been made by this paper.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in immediate condition for allowance.²

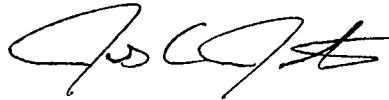
¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise.

² All of the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It is the Applicants' intent, however, to pursue the claims cancelled in this response in a continuation application. It will be appreciated, therefore, that Applicant's decision to forego any traversal of the rejections of the now-cancelled claims should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the continuation application, including any official notice. In fact, to the contrary, Applicants disagree with many of the assertions made in the last rejection.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 801-533-9800.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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Applicants reserve the right to challenge the purported teachings and assertions made in the last action at appropriate time in the future, such as in a preliminary amendment that will be filed with a continuation pursuing the rejected claims.